

# South East Water Pension Scheme

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2023

Scheme Registration number 10183078

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## Section 1 – Trustee and its Advisers

### Trustee

Water Pension Trustee Limited was appointed as Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme ('SEWPS') in December 2016.

### The Trustee Directors

#### Company appointed

J Stimpson (Chair)  
R Loh  
M Hersey  
S Jenkins  
N A Morton

#### Member nominated

M Giel (appointed by the members of both SEWPS and MKGPS)  
D Chung (appointed by the members of both SEWPS and MKGPS)  
R J Allison (appointed by the members of both SEWPS and MKGPS)  
P Seeley (appointed by the members of both SEWPS and MKGPS)

#### Secretary to the Trustee:

Peter Carver FIA CERA, Hymans Robertson LLP

### Advisers

The advisers to the Trustee are set out below:

#### Actuary

Shireen Anisuddin FIA CERA, Hymans Robertson LLP

#### Auditor

Mazars LLP

#### Legal Adviser

Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

#### Administrator

Hymans Robertson LLP

#### Investment Consultant

Hymans Robertson LLP

#### Investment Managers

Barings Asset Management Ltd ("Barings")  
Insight Investment Management (Ireland) Limited ("Insight")  
Just Group Plc  
Legal and General Investment Management Limited ("LGIM")  
M&G Investment Management Limited ("M&G")  
Schroders Investment Management (UK) Limited  
TwentyFour Asset Management LLP ("24AM")

#### Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

#### AVC Provider

Aviva UK Limited

#### Principal Employer

South East Water Limited

#### Contact address

Ms Tracey Smith  
Reward Manager  
South East Water Limited  
Rocfort Road  
Snodland  
Kent, ME6 5AH

## Section 2 – Trustee’s Report

The Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme is pleased to present its report together with the audited financial statements and actuarial statements of the Scheme for the year ended 31 March 2023. The purpose of the report is to describe how the Scheme and its investments have been managed during the year.

### Management of the Scheme

#### Legal Status

The Scheme is governed by a Definitive Trust Deed and Rules dated 28 December 2016.

The Scheme is a defined benefit scheme and is a registered pension scheme under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004.

Members of the Scheme were contracted out of the State Second Pension (“S2P”), prior to the closure of the Scheme to future benefits (see below). Prior to 6 April 2012 this was on a Money Purchase (“Protected Rights”) basis. Following the Government’s abolition of contracting out on a Money Purchase basis from 6 April 2012, the Scheme was amended to instead be contracted out on a Defined Benefit (‘Reference Scheme Test’) basis from 6 April 2012 onwards.

The scheme closed from 1 April 2015. The closure means that active members will earn no further benefits from 31 March 2015. Any benefits built up in the Scheme prior to this date are protected and all members will still receive them as expected. Ongoing pension benefits are provided through the Company’s Defined Contribution scheme.

#### Trustee

The Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme is Water Pension Trustee Limited whose Directors are listed on page 1.

In accordance with the trust deed the Principal Employer has the power to appoint and remove Company appointed Trustee Directors.

In accordance with the Occupational Pension Scheme (Member Nominated Trustees and Directors) Regulations 1996, four of the Trustee Directors are nominated by the members of the South East Water Pension Scheme and Mid Kent Group Pension Scheme to serve for a period of up to five years.

The Member Nominated Trustee Directors may be removed before the end of their term only by agreement of all of the remaining Trustee Directors, although their appointment ceases if they cease to be members of the Scheme.

The Trustee met formally for regular Trustee meetings four times during the year. In addition, there were further meetings for other activities including additional meetings in respect of specific projects and a number of meetings of subcommittees. From December 2016, the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme, Water Pension Trustee Limited, is also the Trustee of the Mid Kent Group Pension Scheme, so that all Trustee meetings and most subcommittee meetings are joint meetings of the two Schemes.

### Financial Development of the Scheme

The financial statements have been prepared and audited in accordance with regulations made under Section 41(1) and (6) of the Pensions Act 1995.

The fund account shows that the net assets of the Scheme decreased from £181,842,000 at 31 March 2022 to £133,667,000 at 31 March 2023. The decrease in net assets is accounted for by:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Contributions paid in by the Company	4,614	4,073
Benefits paid to members and payments in respect of leavers	(7,081)	(8,081)
Administrative expenses	(251)	(252)
<b>Net withdrawals from dealings with members</b>	<b>(2,718)</b>	<b>(4,260)</b>
Returns on investments	(45,079)	7,684
Investment manager expenses	(378)	(317)
<b>Total (decrease)/increase in net assets for the year</b>	<b>(48,175)</b>	<b>3,107</b>
Net assets at the start of the year	181,842	178,735
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>133,667</b>	<b>181,842</b>

### Pension Increases

During the Scheme year, pension increases were applied in accordance with the Scheme Rules as follows:

Effective date – 1 April 2022

- Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (“GMP”) accrued pre 6 April 1988 = Nil% (increases in line with the annual rise in Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) are guaranteed by the State)
- GMPs accrued post 5 April 1988 = 3% (in accordance with the statutory revaluation orders)
- non GMP benefits accrued pre 6 April 1997 = 3.1% (such increases are granted at the discretion of the Trustees/Sponsoring Employer)
- benefits accrued post 5 April 1997 = 3.1%

### Transfer Values

All transfer values paid during the year were calculated and verified as required under Section 97 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

Transfer values paid represented the full value of members’ guaranteed benefits. There were no transfers paid at less than the cash equivalent.

No allowance is made for any discretionary benefits when assessing transfer values.

### Schedule of Contributions

Following the actuarial valuation on 31 March 2020, a Schedule of Contributions was agreed and certified by the Scheme Actuary on 18 June 2021. Deficit contributions of £3,770,104 per annum and expense contributions of £302,750 per annum were effective from 1 July 2021 until 31 March 2025. These figures increase in line with RPI inflation each future year with effect from 1 April 2022.

The Schedule of Contributions is available on request from the Trustee.

### Report on Actuarial Liabilities

Under Section 222 of the Pensions Act 2004, the Scheme has adopted a Statutory Funding Objective which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover its Technical Provisions. The Technical Provisions represent the present value of the benefits members are entitled to at the valuation date (also known as the liabilities). This value is assessed using the assumptions agreed between the Trustee and the Employer as set out in the latest Statement of Funding Principles dated 18 June 2021, which is available on request.

The most recent signed actuarial valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 31 March 2020. This showed that on that date:

The value of the Technical Provisions was: £197.4 million

The value of the Scheme's assets was: £171.2 million

Both these figures exclude the value of members' AVC funds. On this basis the Scheme had a funding deficit of £26.2 million at 31 March 2020 corresponding to a funding level of 87%.

A Recovery Plan was agreed between the Trustee and the Employer on 18 June 2021 to address the funding shortfall, details are set out later in this report.

Between triennial actuarial valuations, trustees of defined benefit schemes with more than 100 members must commission an annual funding report called an "Actuarial Report". The actuarial report must have an effective date of no later than one year from the date of the previous actuarial valuation or actuarial report, and must be completed within one year of the report's effective date. An Actuarial report for the Scheme has been prepared as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022, the results of which are summarised below along with the results from the 31 March 2020 valuation.

Funding position (£M)	Actuarial Valuation as at 31 March 2020	Actuarial Report as at 31 March 2021	Actuarial Report as at 31 March 2022
Assets	171.2	178.7	182.1
Technical Provisions	197.4	186.1	182.6
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(26.2)</b>	<b>(7.4)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>
<b>Funding level</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The results show that over the period 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2023 the Scheme funding position improved from a deficit of £26.2 million to a deficit of £0.5 million. Over this period the Technical Provisions have decreased in value, mainly due to benefits being paid out. The Scheme's assets have increased in value, primarily due to a strong return on assets and the deficit contributions paid by the Employer.

The next triennial valuation of the Scheme is due as at 31 March 2023 which is currently underway.

The method and the significant actuarial assumptions used to determine the Technical Provisions are as follows (further details of all assumptions adopted are set out in the Statement of Funding Principles dated 18 June 2021):

**Method:**

The actuarial method used in the calculation of the Technical Provisions is the 'Projected Unit' method.

**Significant assumptions:**

**Discount rate:** In line with gilt yield curve + 0.8% p.a. until 31 March 2025; then + 0.5% p.a. thereafter.

**Future Retail Prices Index ("RPI") inflation:** In line with a gilt market implied inflation curve.

**Future Consumer Prices Index ("CPI") inflation:** Derived from the assumption for future RPI inflation, less an adjustment of 1.0% p.a. to 2030, then less 0.5% p.a. thereafter.

**Pensionable salary increases:** No allowance due to Scheme closure from 31 March 2015.

**Pension increases (in excess of "GMP"):** CPI price inflation adjusted to allow for an annual floor of 0% p.a.

**Revaluation prior to retirement:** In line with the greater of statutory revaluation and the relevant multiplier under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971.

**Mortality:** Member specific Club Vita tables based on the Scheme's membership at the 2020 valuation. Future improvements in line with CMI 2019 core model with core smoothing parameter ( $S_k=7.0$ ), addition to initial improvements ('A' parameter) of 0.5, and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. tapering linearly to zero between the ages of 85 to 110.

**Commutation:** Members assumed to commute 80% of the maximum allowable pension under post-April 2006 HMRC limits on current Scheme terms.

**Other assumptions:** Appropriate allowance is made for early retirements, as set out in the Statement of Funding Principles dated 18 June 2021.

**Guaranteed Minimum Pension ("GMP")**

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgment involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgment concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits. The Trustee is aware that the issue will affect the Scheme and will be considering this at future meetings and decisions will be made as to the next steps. Under the ruling schemes are required to backdate benefit adjustments in relation to GMP equalisation and provide interest on the backdated amounts. The impact on the Scheme is not expected to be material and has therefore not been recognised in the accounts.

In November 2020 a further judgement was passed down on the Lloyds Bank GMP equalisation case, requiring pension scheme trustees to investigate historic transfer payments since 17 May 1990 and check whether the payment would have been higher had the member's benefits been equalised for the effects of unequal male and female GMPs. In cases where payments would have been higher, trustees may have an obligation to make "top-up" payments. The Trustee will take advice on the matter as part of the larger project of implementing GMP equalisation, but the impact on the Scheme is not expected to be material and has therefore not been recognised in the accounts.

### World events

At the time of approval of the financial statements, the impact of COVID-19 has lessened given the success of the vaccination program worldwide. While the long term effects are unknown, there is evidence emerging that there will be some impact on improvements in longevity. The overall effects are uncertain but, as for many schemes at this time, the Trustee continues to be vigilant of the potential for a significant and enduring impact on the Scheme. The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia is impacting global markets and inflation, following assessment of the Scheme's investment portfolio, no direct exposure to the conflict has been identified up to and including the date of signing. In addition to this, following the Government's mini budget in September 2022, bond yields have been very volatile, rising significantly at the end of September 2022. Yields have reduced and started to stabilise since then, however they remain much higher than yields at the start of 2022.

The Trustee will continue to monitor the situation and the impact on the Scheme. The Trustee has concluded that there is no impact of COVID-19, the Ukraine/Russia conflict or the market volatility on the going concern of the Scheme.

## Scheme Membership

The reconciliation of the Scheme membership during the year ended 31 March 2023 is shown below:

Pensioner Members (including spouses and dependants)	Number
<b>As at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>691</b>
Prior period adjustment	1
<b>As at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>692</b>
Retirements	17
Deaths	(30)
Spouses pensions	11
<b>Pensioner members as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>690</b>

Deferred Pensioner Members	Number
<b>As at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>328</b>
Prior period adjustment	(1)
<b>As at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>327</b>
Retirements	(17)
Transfers out	(1)
<b>Deferred pensioner members as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>309</b>



## Investment Policy

### Investment manager

The Scheme's investments are handled by investment managers appointed by the Trustee. The investment strategy is agreed by the Trustee after taking appropriate advice. Subject to the investment strategy set by the Trustee, day to day management of the Scheme's portfolio, which includes full discretion over stock selection, is the responsibility of the investment managers. The investment managers are shown on page 1.

### Investment strategy

The current investment strategy has been designed to reduce the current risks to the future development of the Scheme's funding position through investment in assets that will generate cash that can be used to pay benefits as they fall due. In addition, the Scheme holds investments whose prices are designed to move in line with changes in the value placed on the Scheme's liability to pay benefits in the future. The Trustee integrates environmental, social, and governance factors, including climate-related risks, into its investment process.

The Trustee made the following changes to the Scheme's investment strategy over the year:

- Full disinvestment from the M&G Credit Opportunities Fund IV with the proceeds invested across the Scheme's other asset backed securities mandates, TwentyFour Monument Bond and Insiisght Global ABS to improve liquidity across the investment strategy.
- Full disinvestment from the LGIM RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway 3.5% Index Fund as the Fund did not meet the Trustee's view on controversial weapons, investing the proceeds in the LGIM RAFI Multi-Factor Climate Transition Equity Fund

### Asset allocation

The asset allocation of the Scheme at 31 March 2023 is summarised in the table below.

	Asset Allocation at 31 March 2023		
	Valuation £	Total Fund %	Benchmark %
Global Equity	<b>12,240,238</b>	9.1	10
Higher Risk Absolute Return Bonds	<b>20,412,747</b>	15.3	15
Multi-Asset Credit	<b>12,995,570</b>	9.7	10
Asset Backed Securities	<b>26,610,623</b>	19.9	65
Gilts / LDI	<b>42,388,507</b>	31.7	
Annuity buy in	<b>5,400,114</b>	4.0	
Private Equity	<b>101,656</b>	0.1	-
Cash	<b>13,076,212</b>	10.2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,225,667</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100</b>

Notes: 1) Bid prices sourced from investment managers except for M&G, Barings, and Insight which are single priced. 2) The combined target allocation to asset-backed securities, LDI and annuity buy in is 65%, with the asset backed securities used to rebalance as necessary.

### Investment Performance

The return (net of fees) on the Scheme's investments over various periods to 31 March 2023 is shown below together with the return on the benchmark adopted by the Trustee.

Period Ended 31 March 2023	Scheme	Benchmark
1 year (%)	<b>-26.2</b>	<b>-24.2</b>
3 years (% p.a.)	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>-6.2</b>

### Pricing methods of managers

Manager	Fund	Pricing point
Baring Asset Management Limited	Global High Yield Credit Fund	Daily
Legal & General Investment Management Limited	Equities and gilt/LDI index funds	Weekly
	Sterling Liquidity Fund	Daily
M&G Investment Management Limited	Alpha Opportunities Fund	Monthly
TwentyFour Asset Management	Monument Bond Fund	Daily
Insight Investment Management (Ireland) Limited	Insight Global Asset-Backed Securities Fund	Daily
Schroders Investment Management (UK) Limited	Schroder Private Equity Fund	n/a

### Statement of Investment Principles

The Trustee has prepared a Statement of Investment Principles (the "SIP"), which sets out the principles governing how investments are chosen. A copy of the Scheme's SIP can be found at [www.sewpensionscheme.co.uk](http://www.sewpensionscheme.co.uk).

### Custodial Arrangements

The custodian is responsible for the safe keeping, monitoring and reconciliation of documentation relating to the ownership of listed investments. Underlying investments are held in the name of the custodian's nominee companies, in line with common practice for pension scheme investments. The table below shows the custodial arrangements for each investment manager.

Investment Manager	Custodian
Barings Asset Management Ltd	State Street Custodial Services (Ireland) Limited
Legal and General Investment Management Limited	Liquidity Funds: Northern Trust Global Services Limited; All other pooled funds: Citibank N.A
M&G Investment Management Limited	State Street Custodial Services (Ireland) Limited
TwentyFour Asset Management	The Northern Trust Company, London Branch
Insight Investment Management (Ireland) Limited	Northern Trust Fiduciary Services (Ireland) Limited
Schroders Investment Management (UK) Limited	Schroders Investment Management (UK) Limited

### Employer Related Investments

There were no employer related investments during the year (2022: £nil).

## Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with the UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) are the responsibility of the trustees. Pension scheme regulations require, and the Trustee is responsible for ensuring, that those financial statements:

- show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the scheme during the scheme year and of the amount and disposition at the end of the scheme year of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the scheme year; and
- contain the information specified in Regulation 3A of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, including a statement as to whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework applicable to occupational pension schemes.

In discharging the above responsibilities, the trustee is responsible for selecting suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making any estimates and judgments on a prudent and reasonable basis, and for the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the scheme will not be wound up.

The trustee is also responsible for making available certain other information about the scheme in the form of an annual report.

The trustee also has a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the assets of the scheme and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, including the maintenance of an appropriate system of internal control.

The trustee is responsible under pensions legislation for preparing, maintaining and from time to time reviewing and if necessary revising a schedule of contributions showing the rates of contributions payable towards the scheme and the dates on or before which such contributions are to be paid. The trustee is also responsible for keeping records in respect of contributions and for adopting risk-based processes to monitor whether contributions are made to the scheme by the employer in accordance with the schedule of contributions. Where breaches of the schedule occur, the trustee is required by the Pensions Acts 1995 and 2004 to consider making reports to The Pensions Regulator and the members.

## Further Information

### Internal Dispute Resolution (“IDR”) Procedures

It is a requirement of the Pensions Act 1995 that the trustees of all occupational pension schemes must have IDR procedures in place for dealing with any disputes between the Trustee and the scheme beneficiaries. A dispute resolution procedure has been agreed by the Trustee, details of which can be obtained by writing to the Secretary to the Trustee at the following address:

Secretary to the Trustee  
South East Water Pension Scheme  
Hymans Robertson LLP  
One London Wall  
London  
EC2Y 5EA  
Email: [southeastwater@hymans.co.uk](mailto:southeastwater@hymans.co.uk) .

### Contact for Further Information

Any enquiries or complaints about the Scheme, including requests from individuals about their benefits or for a copy of Scheme documentation, should be sent to the Secretary to the Trustee at the above address.

### The Pensions Advisory Service and The Pensions Ombudsman

Members have the right to refer their complaint to The Pensions Ombudsman free of charge. The Pensions Ombudsman deals with complaints and disputes which concern the administration and/or management of occupational and personal pension schemes.

Contact with The Pensions Ombudsman about a complaint needs to be made within three years of when the events(s) the member is complaining about happened – or, if later, within three years of when they first knew about it (or ought to have known about it). There is discretion for those time limits to be extended.

The Pensions Ombudsman can be contacted at:

10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU  
Tel: 0800 917 4487  
Email: [enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)  
[www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)

Members can also submit a complaint form online:

[www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/making-complaint](http://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/making-complaint)

If members have any general requests for information or guidance concerning their pension arrangements contact:

Money and Pensions Service  
Holburn Centre  
120 Holburn  
London  
EC1N 2TD  
Tel: 0115 965 9570  
Email: [contact@map.org.uk](mailto:contact@map.org.uk)  
Website: <https://www.moneyandpensionservice.org.uk/>

### The Pensions Regulator

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has the objectives of protecting the benefits of members, promoting good administration and reducing the risk of claims on the Pension Protection Fund. TPR has the power to investigate schemes, to take action to prevent wrongdoing in or maladministration of pension schemes and to act against employers failing to abide by their pension obligations. TPR may be contacted at the following address:

The Pensions Regulator  
Napier House  
Trafalgar Place  
Brighton  
BN1 4DW

[www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk)

### Pension Tracing Service

The Pension Schemes Registry has been replaced with the Pension Tracing Service and is now provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Responsibility for compiling and maintaining the register of occupational pension schemes has been passed to The Pensions Regulator.

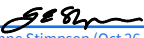
Contact details for the Pension Tracing Service are as follows:

Pension Tracing Service 9  
Mail Handling Site A  
Wolverhampton  
WV98 1LU

[www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details](http://www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details)

### Approval of the Report by the Trustee

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme by:

  
Joanne Stimpson (Oct 26, 2023 09:42 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

  
neil morton (Oct 26, 2023 10:16 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

Oct 26, 2023

Date

## Section 3 – Independent Auditor’s Report to the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The South East Water Pension Scheme (the Scheme) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Fund Account, the Statement of Net Assets and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Scheme’s affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than those liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the year end;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- contain the information specified in Regulations 3A of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, made under the Pensions Act 1995

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the “Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements” section of our report. We are independent of the Scheme in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Scheme’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustee with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustee’s Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The Trustee is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Trustee**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities set out on page 9, the Trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Scheme's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee either intends to wind up the Scheme or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the Scheme and its environment, we identified that the principal risk of non-compliance with the laws and regulations related to the non-receipt of contributions from the principal employer in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions, administration of the Scheme in accordance with Pensions Acts 1995 and 2004 and regulations made under them and Codes of Practice issued by the Pensions Regulator, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the Scheme is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the Scheme which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as Pensions Act 1995.

In addition, we evaluated the Trustee's and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the Trustee and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Trustee as a body in accordance with Regulation 3 of The Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirements to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, made under the Pensions Act 1995. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustee those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Scheme and the Trustee as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Mazars LLP*  
Mazars LLP (Oct 28, 2023 15:25 GMT+1)

Mazars LLP  
 Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
 The Pinnacle  
 160 Midsummer Boulevard  
 Milton Keynes  
 MK9 1FF  
 Date Oct 28, 2023



## Section 4 – Financial Statements

### Fund Account for year ended 31 March 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	£000	£000
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS</b>			
Contributions			
Employer	4	4,614	4,073
		<u>4,614</u>	<u>4,073</u>
Benefits	5	(7,061)	(7,366)
Leavers	6	(20)	(715)
Administrative expenses	7	(251)	(252)
		<u>(7,332)</u>	<u>(8,333)</u>
<b>Net withdrawals from dealings with members</b>		<b>(2,718)</b>	<b>(4,260)</b>
<b>RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS</b>			
Investment income	8	2,517	2,142
Change in market value of investments	10	(47,596)	5,542
Investment management expenses	11	(378)	(317)
<b>Net returns on investments</b>		<b>(45,457)</b>	<b>7,367</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in the Scheme during the year</b>		<b>(48,175)</b>	<b>3,107</b>
<b>Balance of the Scheme at the start of the year</b>		<b>181,842</b>	<b>178,735</b>
<b>Balance of the Scheme at the end of the year</b>		<b><u>133,667</u></b>	<b><u>181,842</u></b>

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.


## Statement of Net Assets (available for benefits) as at 31 March 2023

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023 £000</b>	<b>2022 £000</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>	<b>10</b>		
Pooled investment vehicles		127,826	175,079
Insurance policy		5,538	6,888
AVC		27	27
Investment cash		-	45
		<b>133,391</b>	<b>182,039</b>
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>482</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(578)</b>	<b>(679)</b>
<b>Net assets of the Scheme at the end of the year</b>		<b>133,667</b>	<b>181,842</b>

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Scheme and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Trustee. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Scheme year.

The actuarial position of the Scheme, which does take account of such obligations, is dealt with in the Report on actuarial liabilities on pages 4 and 5 of these financial statements and should be read in conjunction therewith.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme and signed for and on their behalf by:

  
Joanne Stimpson (Oct 26, 2023 09:42 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

  
neil morton (Oct 26, 2023 10:16 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

Oct 26, 2023

Date

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

## Section 5 – Notes to the Financial Statements

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

#### 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirements to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (“FRS 102”) and the guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice, “Financial Reports of Pension Schemes” (Revised June 2018) (“the SORP”).

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, which the Trustee believes to be appropriate as it believes that the Scheme has adequate resources to realise its assets and meet pension payments in the normal course of affairs (continue to operate) for at least the next twelve months.

#### 2. IDENTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Scheme is established as a trust under English law. The address for enquiries to the scheme is

Secretary to the Trustee  
South East Water Pension Scheme  
Hymans Robertson LLP  
One London Wall  
London  
EC2Y 5EA  
Email: [southeastwater@hymans.co.uk](mailto:southeastwater@hymans.co.uk)

#### 3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies, which have been consistently applied during the year, are set out below.

##### 3.1 Contributions

Deficit and expenses contributions are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the Schedule of Contributions. Additional contributions are accounted for on receipt.

##### 3.2 Additional voluntary contributions (“AVCs”)

AVCs are accounted for on an accruals basis, in the same way as other contributions, and the resulting investments are included in the net assets statement.

##### 3.3 Benefits

Pensions payable in respect of the Scheme year are accounted for by reference to the period to which they relate. Refunds and lump sums are accounted for by reference to the later of the date of retirement or leaving the Scheme, or the date the option is exercised

##### 3.4 Transfers

Transfer values to other pension arrangements are accounted for when the liability for any pension benefits in respect of a transferring member passes from the Scheme.

##### 3.5 Income

Interest on bank deposits is accounted for on an accruals basis. Income from investment vehicles is accounted for on an accruals basis.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

**3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)****3.6 Investments**

Quoted securities are valued at the bid market price at the close of business. The fair value of unit trusts and managed fund units is taken as the bid price at the accounting date as advised by the investment managers.

The Just Group Plc insurance policy is allocated to the provision of pensions for certain members of the Scheme. Income received from this policy is treated as investment income and the corresponding expenditure is included in Benefits within the pension payment account. The buy in policy remains an asset of the Scheme and is valued at the year-end using an “actuarial value” approach. This approach places a value on the policy based on the present value of the underlying pension cashflows. The valuation has been prepared by the Scheme Actuary on a technical provisions basis which is consistent with the valuation of the Scheme’s liabilities.

The changes in investment market values are accounted for in the year in which they arise and include profits and losses on investments sold as well as unrealised gains and losses in the value of investments held at the year end.

Investments in overseas currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rates ruling at the year end.

**4. CONTRIBUTIONS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Employer		
Deficit funding	<b>4,038</b>	3,770
Contributions to cover expenses	<b>324</b>	303
Additional contributions	<b>252</b>	-
	<b>4,614</b>	4,073

Deficit funding contributions of £4,038,000 (2021: £3,737,000) and expense contributions of £324,000 (2020: £300,000) were received as per the Schedule of Contributions. Deficit funding contributions are payable to 31 March 2025. The Company started paying additional contributions into the Scheme from January 2023.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

**5. BENEFITS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Pensions	<b>6,510</b>	6,413
Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	<b>551</b>	915
Death benefits	-	38
	<b>7,061</b>	7,366

**6. PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Individual transfers to other schemes	<b>20</b>	715

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Administration and actuarial	<b>217</b>	209
Audit fee	<b>13</b>	14
Legal and other professional fees	<b>9</b>	20
PPF levy	<b>12</b>	9
	<b>251</b>	252

**8. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Pooled investment vehicles	<b>2,197</b>	1,845
Annuity income	<b>305</b>	295
Sundry income	-	2
Bank Interest	<b>15</b>	-
	<b>2,517</b>	2,142

**9. TAX**

The South East Water Pension Scheme is a registered pension scheme for tax purposes under the Finance Act 2004. The Scheme is therefore exempt from taxation except for certain withholding taxes relating to overseas investment income. Tax charges are accrued on the same basis as the investment income to which they relate.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

## 10. INVESTMENT ASSETS

## 10.1 Investment Assets Reconciliation

The movements in investments during the year were:

	<i>Opening value</i>	<i>Purchase cost</i>	<i>Sales proceeds</i>	<i>Change in market value</i>	<i>Closing value</i>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pooled investment vehicles	175,079	139,933	(140,940)	(46,246)	127,826
Insurance policy	6,888	-	-	(1,350)	5,538
AVC investments	27	-	-	-	27
Total	181,994	139,933	(140,940)	(47,596)	133,391
Investment cash	45				-
	182,039				133,391

The change in the market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the fair value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments during the year.

Transaction costs are included in the cost of purchases and sale proceeds. Transaction costs include costs charged directly to the Scheme such as fees, commissions, stamp duty and other fees. In addition to the transaction costs disclosed above, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles.

**Insurance policy**

The Just Group Plc insurance policy is allocated to the provision of pensions for certain members of the Scheme. Income received from this policy is treated as investment income and the corresponding expenditure is included in Benefits within the pension payment account. The buy in policy remains an asset of the Scheme and is valued by the Scheme Actuary at the year-end using an “actuarial value” approach. This approach places a value on the policy based on the present value of the underlying pension cashflows. The valuation has been prepared by the Scheme Actuary on a technical provisions basis which is consistent with the valuation of the Scheme's liabilities.

All fund managers operating the pooled investment vehicles are registered in the United Kingdom

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

## 10. INVESTMENT ASSETS (CONTINUED)

## 10.2 Pooled Investment Vehicles ("PIV")

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Global Equity	12,240	20,615
Multi-Asset Credit	12,995	18,090
Asset Backed Securities	26,611	52,734
Absolute Return Bonds	20,413	28,233
Gilts - LDI Funds	42,389	49,234
Liquidity Funds	13,076	6,075
Private Equity	102	98
	<b>127,826</b>	<b>175,079</b>

## 10.3 AVC Investments

The Trustee holds assets invested separately from the main fund in the form of a managed fund/insurance policy. These secure additional benefits on a money purchase basis for those members electing to pay additional voluntary contributions. Members participating in this arrangement each receive an annual statement made up to 31 March confirming the amounts held to their account and the movements in the year. The aggregate amounts of AVC investments are shown above:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Aviva	27	27

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

## 10. INVESTMENT ASSETS (CONTINUED)

## 10.4 Concentration of Investments

The following investments account for more than 5% of the Scheme's net assets as at 31 March 2023:

	2023		2022	
	£000	% of net assets	£000	% of net assets
M&G Alpha Opportunities Fund	20,413	15.3	28,233	15.5
TwentyFour AM Monument Bond Fund	13,439	10.1	19,267	10.6
IIFIG Global ABS Fund Cls B GBP Income	13,172	9.9	18,441	10.1
Legal & General Sterling Liquidity Fund	13,076	9.8	-	-
Barings Global High Yield Credit Fund	12,996	9.7	18,090	9.9
Legal & General 2058 Index-Linked Gilt Fund	12,240	9.2	-	-
Legal & General 2037 Leveraged IndexLinked Gilt Fund	9,390	7.0	-	-
Legal & General 2030 Leveraged Index Linked Gilt Fund	6,859	5.1	10,534	5.8
Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway 3.5% Index	-	-	20,616	11.3
M&G Credit Opportunities Fund IV	-	-	15,025	8.3

## 10.5 Investments Fair Value Hierarchy

The fair value of financial instruments has been determined using the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1	The unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2	Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e. developed using market data) for the asset, either directly or indirectly;
Level 3	Inputs which are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable for the asset or liability).

The Scheme's invested assets have been fair valued using the above hierarchy categories as follows:

As at 31 March 2023	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	1	2	3	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pooled investment vehicles	-	127,724	102	127,826
Insurance policy	-	-	5,538	5,538
AVC investments	-	27	-	27
	-	127,751	5,640	133,391



**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)****10. INVESTMENT ASSETS (CONTINUED)****10.5 Investments Fair Value Hierarchy (continued)**

As at 31 March 2022	Level 1 £000	Level 2 £000	Level 3 £000	Total £000
Pooled investment vehicles	-	174,981	98	175,079
Insurance policy	-	-	6,888	6,888
AVC investments	-	27	-	27
Investment cash	45	-	-	45
	45	175,008	6,986	182,039

**10.6 Investment Risks**

FRS 102 requires the disclosure of information in relation to certain investment risks. These risks are set out by FRS 102 as follows:

Credit risk: this is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

Market risk: this comprises currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

- Currency risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.
- Interest rate risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.
- Other price risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk). These changes may be caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The Scheme has exposure to these risks via the investments held to implement the Scheme's investment strategy. The Trustee determines their investment strategy after taking advice from the investment adviser. The Trustee manages investment risks, including credit risk and market risk, considering the Scheme's investment objectives and the investment strategy and the advice of their investment advisers.

The Scheme invests in sterling denominated pooled investment vehicles (PIVs). The Scheme therefore has direct credit risk to the PIV and indirect credit and market risks arising from the underlying investments of the PIVs. The Trustee selects the PIVs based on their investment mandates and monitor the PIV at the fund level. The investment managers are responsible for managing the underlying credit and market risks within the PIVs.

The Scheme's investment strategy has been disclosed within the Trustee's report.

Further information on the Trustee's approach to risk management is set out below. This does not include AVC investments, as these are not considered significant in relation to the overall investments of the Scheme.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

## 10. INVESTMENT ASSETS (CONTINUED)

## 10.6 Investment Risks (continued)

**Direct Credit risk**

Direct credit risk arising from pooled investment vehicles is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled arrangements being ring-fenced from the pooled manager, the regulatory environments in which the pooled managers operate and diversification of investments amongst a number of pooled arrangements. The Trustee carries out due diligence checks on the appointment of new pooled investment managers and on an ongoing basis monitors any changes to the regulatory and operating environment of the pooled manager.

All the pooled investment vehicles are unrated. Cash is held within financial institutions which are at least investment grade credit rated. Insurance policies are held with Just Group Plc. The Scheme has direct credit risk with Just Group Plc arising from these contracts.

**Indirect credit and market risks**

The table below summarises which PIVs have significant exposure to indirect credit and market risks.

2023				
	Credit risk	Foreign exchange risk	Interest rate risk	Other price risk
Barings Global High Yield Credit Strategies Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legal & General Investment Management LDI	✓	-	✓	✓
Legal & General Investment Management Sterling Liquidity Fund	✓	-	✓	-
Legal & General RAFI Multi- Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund	-	✓	-	✓
M&G Alpha Opportunities Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓
Insight Investment Global ABS Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
TwentyFour AM Monument Bond Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
Schroder Private Equity Fund of Funds	-	✓	-	✓
2022				
Barings Global High Yield Credit Strategies Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
Invesco Global Targeted Returns Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legal & General Investment Management LDI	✓	-	✓	✓
Legal & General Investment Management Sterling Liquidity Fund	✓	-	✓	-
Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway 3.5% Index	-	✓	-	✓
M&G Alpha Opportunities Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓
M&G Credit Opportunities Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
Insight Investment Global ABS Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
TwentyFour AM Monument Bond Fund	✓	✓	✓	-
Schroder Private Equity Fund of Funds	-	✓	-	✓

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

**11. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPENSES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Administration, management and custody	<b>378</b>	<b>317</b>

**12. CURRENT ASSETS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Deficit contributions	<b>336</b>	314
Expense contributions	<b>27</b>	25
Cash balances	<b>491</b>	143
	<b>854</b>	482

Contributions were paid in line with the Schedule of Contributions.

**13. CURRENT LIABILITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Unpaid benefits	<b>529</b>	558
Accrued expenses	<b>49</b>	121
	<b>578</b>	679

**14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Certain Trustee Directors in office during the financial year were members of the Scheme. The pension payments for the pensioner Trustee Directors are paid in accordance with the Scheme rules.

**15. EMPLOYER RELATED INVESTMENTS**

There were no employer related investments at 31 March 2023 (2022: none) or at any time during the year.

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)****16. GUARANTEED MINIMUM PENSION ('GMP')**

As noted in the Trustee's Report on page 5, on 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgment involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgment concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits. The Trustee is aware that the issue will affect the Scheme and will be considering this at future meetings and decisions will be made as to the next steps. Under the ruling schemes are required to backdate benefit adjustments in relation to GMP equalisation and provide interest on the backdated amounts. The impact on the Scheme is not expected to be material and has therefore not been recognised in the accounts.

In November 2020 a further judgement was passed down on the Lloyds Bank GMP equalisation case, requiring pension scheme trustees to investigate historic transfer payments since 17 May 1990 and check whether the payment would have been higher had the member's benefits been equalised for the effects of unequal male and female GMPs. In cases where payments would have been higher, trustees may have an obligation to make "top-up" payments. The Trustee will take advice on the matter as part of the larger project of implementing GMP equalisation, but the impact on the Scheme is not expected to be material and has therefore not been recognised in the accounts.

## Section 6 – Independent Auditor’s Statement about Contributions

### Independent Auditor’s Statement about Contributions to the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme

We have examined the summary of contributions of the South East Water Pension Scheme payable in respect of the Scheme year ended 31 March 2023 to which this statement is attached.

In our opinion the contributions for the Scheme year ended 31 March 2023 as reported in the Summary of Contributions to which this statement is attached and payable under the Schedules of Contributions have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the Schedules of Contributions certified by the scheme actuary on the 18 June 2021.

### Scope of work on statement about contributions

Our examination involves obtaining evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that contributions reported in the attached summary of contributions have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the schedule of contributions. This includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts of contributions payable to the scheme and the timing of those payments under the schedule of contributions.

### Respective responsibilities of trustee and auditor

As explained more fully in the statement of trustee’s responsibilities, the scheme’s trustee is responsible for preparing, and from time to time reviewing and if necessary revising, a schedule of contributions and for monitoring whether contributions are made to the scheme by the employer in accordance with the schedule of contributions.

It is our responsibility to provide a Statement about Contributions paid under the schedule of contributions and to report our opinion to you.

*Mazars LLP*

Mazars LLP (Oct 28, 2023 15:25 GMT+1)


Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
The Pinnacle  
160 Midsummer Boulevard  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1FF  
Date Oct 28, 2023

Summary of Contributions payable in the year

During the year, the contributions payable to the Scheme were as follows:

	Employer £000
Required by the schedule of contributions	
Deficit funding	4,038
Contributions to cover expenses	324
<b>Total per the Schedule of Contributions</b>	<b>4,362</b>
Additional contributions	252
<b>Total (as per Fund Account)</b>	<b>4,614</b>

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustee of the South East Water Pension Scheme by:

  
Joanne Stimpson (Oct 26, 2023 09:42 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

  
neil morton (Oct 26, 2023 10:16 GMT+1)

Trustee Director

Oct 26, 2023

Date

## Section 7 – Actuarial Certificate



South East Water Pension Scheme | [Water Pension Trustee Ltd](#)

### Schedule of Contributions – Actuarial Certificate

**Scheme: South East Water Pension Scheme**

#### Adequacy of contributions

In my opinion, the contributions shown in this schedule are such that the statutory funding objective on 31 March 2020 can be expected to be met by the end of the period specified in the recovery plan dated 18 June 2021.

#### Consistency with statement of funding principles

In my opinion, this schedule of contributions is consistent with the statement of funding principles dated 18 June 2021.

Please note that the adequacy of contributions statement in this certificate relates to the Scheme's statutory funding objective. For the avoidance of doubt this certificate does not mean that the contributions shown in this schedule would be enough to secure the scheme's full liabilities with annuities if the Scheme were to wind up.

Signature

DocuSigned by:  
  
 D3135AEC8698467...  
 18 June 2021

Date

Name

Shireen Anisuddin

Qualification

Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Name of Employer

Hymans Robertson LLP

Address

One London Wall  
 London  
 EC2Y 5EA

This certificate is provided to meet the requirements of regulation 10(6) of The Occupational Pension Schemes (Scheme Funding) Regulations 2005.

## Section 8 – Implementation Statement

### Statement of Compliance with the South East Water Pension Scheme's Stewardship Policy for the year ending 31 March 2023

#### Introduction

This is the Trustee's statement prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2013 (as amended). This statement sets out how the Trustee has complied with the Scheme's Stewardship Policy and other policies and practices within the Statement of Investment Principles ("SIP") during the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

#### Stewardship policy

The Trustee's Stewardship (voting and engagement) Policy sets out how the Trustee will behave as an active owner of the Scheme's assets which includes the Trustee's approach to;

- the exercise of voting rights attached to assets; and
- undertaking engagement activity, including how the Trustee monitors and engages with its investment managers and any other stakeholders.

The Stewardship Policy is reviewed on an annual basis in line with the Scheme's SIP review which was last completed on 22 March 2023. This report covers the SIP that was signed on 22 March 2023 as well as the SIP which was in place between 31 March 2022 and 21 March 2023.

You can review the Scheme Stewardship Policy which can be found within the Scheme's Statement of Investment Principles, at [www.sewpensionscheme.co.uk](http://www.sewpensionscheme.co.uk).

To support the Policy within the Scheme's SIP, the Trustee formalised a set of responsible investment beliefs over 2022. It is expected the beliefs will be revisited on periodic basis to ensure they evolve in line with industry practice and remain appropriate for the Scheme.

The Trustee has delegated voting and engagement activity in respect of the underlying assets to the Scheme's investment managers. The Trustee believes it is important that its investment managers take an active role in the supervision of the companies in which they invest, both by voting at shareholder meetings and engaging with the management on issues which affect a company's financial performance. The Trustee expects its investment managers to engage with portfolio companies regarding their ESG practices and to consider exclusion only when engagement fails to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

The Trustee's own engagement activity is focused on its dialogue with its investment managers which is undertaken in conjunction with their investment advisers. The Trustee meets regularly with its managers and the Trustee considers managers' exercise of their stewardship both during these meetings and through reporting provided by their investment adviser.

The Trustee also monitors its compliance with its Stewardship Policy on a regular basis and is satisfied that they have complied with the Scheme's Stewardship Policy over the last year.

#### Voting activity

The Trustee periodically reviews the fund managers' approaches to stewardship including voting and engagement policies. Responsibility for investment decisions has been delegated to the investment managers. Where managers are responsible for investing in a new issuance, the Trustee expects the manager to engage with the issuer about the terms on which capital is issued and the potential impact on the rights of new and existing investors.



The Trustee seeks to ensure that its managers are exercising voting rights and where appropriate, to monitor managers' voting patterns. The Trustee also monitors investment managers voting on particular companies or issues that affect more than one company.

At year-end, the Scheme invested in equity assets through one mandate, the Legal & General RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund. During the 12-month period, the Scheme divested from Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway 3.5% Index Fund, investing the proceeds into the Legal & General RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund. Since the voting reports are only available on a 12-month basis, we have included voting data from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 for both funds in tables 1 and 2 below.

The reported information is based on full disclosure by LGIM. The Trustee does not believe that any information is missing.

**Table 1: Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Equity Index Fund voting data**

Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Equity Index Fund	
Proportion of Scheme assets as at 31 March 2023	-
Did the manager employ the house voting policy in managing the fund?	Yes
Was use made of any proxy voting service during the year?	Yes – LGIM uses Institutional Shareholder Services' (ISS) electronic voting platform to electronically vote clients' shares. All voting decisions are made by LGIM.
No. of holdings in the fund, as at 31 March 2023	2,200
No. of meetings eligible to vote at during the year	3,407
No. of resolutions eligible to vote on during the year	39,878
% of resolutions voted	99.7%
% of resolutions voted with management	78.9%
% of resolutions voted against management	19.8%
% of resolutions abstained	1.3%
% of meetings with at least one vote against management	69.5%

**Table 2: Legal & General RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund voting data**

Legal & General RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund	
Proportion of Scheme assets as at 31 March 2023	9.2%
Did the manager employ the house voting policy in managing the fund?	Yes
Was use made of any proxy voting service during the year?	Yes – LGIM uses Institutional Shareholder Services' (ISS) electronic voting platform to electronically vote clients' shares. All voting decisions are made by LGIM.
No. of holdings in the fund at year end	760
No. of meetings eligible to vote at during the year	873
No. of resolutions eligible to vote on during the year	12,561
% of resolutions voted	99.5%
% of resolutions voted with management	79.8%
% of resolutions voted against management	19.9%
% of resolutions abstained	0.3%
% of meetings with at least one vote against management	78.9%

Source: Legal & General Investment Management. \*The voting data covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

### Significant votes

The Trustee has asked its managers to report on the most significant votes cast within the portfolios they manage on behalf of the Trustee. Managers were asked to explain the reasons why votes were significant, the size of the position in the portfolio, how they voted, any engagement the manager had undertaken with the company and the outcome of the vote. The majority of public companies hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the second quarter of each year.

Based on the information provided by the managers, the most significant votes undertaken on behalf of the Trustee are outlined in the Appendix.

### Engagement activity

The Trustee holds meetings with their investment managers on a regular basis where stewardship issues are discussed in further detail. Over the last 12 months, the Trustee has met with 4 of their 6 managers. The Trustee has discussed the following issues over the course of the year.

**Table 3: Trustee's engagement activity with investment managers over the year to 31 March 2023**

Date	Fund manager	Subject discussed	Outcome
9 May 2022	Insight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business update and refresher of the asset class</li> <li>ESG considerations including improvements in ESG reporting from originators in the ABS asset class.</li> <li>Portfolio review and outlook, including exposure to inflation risk.</li> <li>Large cash allocation within the portfolio.</li> </ul>	The ISC were satisfied with Insight's presentation and support the increased ESG reporting by Insight. The ISC will monitor the deployment of Insight's large allocation to cash, and the performance of the fund over the next 12 months.
8 August 2022	LGIM and RAFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business update on RAFI and LGIM teams</li> <li>RAFI benchmark construction process including recent changes.</li> <li>Portfolio exclusions and ESG-related engagements.</li> <li>Climate Impact Pledge.</li> <li>Stewardship and engagement policies at LGIM.</li> <li>The Scheme's LDI mandate.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the ISC were left dissatisfied with the presentation.</p> <p>The ISC was not aware that the RAFI funds are not covered by the same stewardship policies as LGIM's. The ISC was also uncomfortable with the RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway 3.5% Fund investing in controversial weapons. The ISC asked their investment adviser to confirm whether any of the Schemes' policies state the Trustee's view on this topic. The ISC suggested that it is likely they will have to consider an alternative to the current equity fund if it is in breach of any of their investment policies.</p> <p>The ISC also requested additional information on their diversity and inclusion policies.</p>
7 November 2022	M&G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business update</li> <li>Diversity and Inclusion targets.</li> <li>Fund performance, portfolio positioning and outlook.</li> <li>Credit selection process.</li> </ul>	The ISC were satisfied with M&G's presentation, noting that they answered particularly well on ESG and diversity and inclusion. The ISC noted that the 60-day notice period could negatively impact the fund in the medium term as pension schemes, insurers and other investors begin to favour

Date	Fund manager	Subject discussed	Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund liquidity and diversification.</li> <li>ESG integration</li> </ul>	more liquid alternatives and agreed to monitor this moving forward.
7 February 2023	Barings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business update</li> <li>Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion within targets.</li> <li>Fund performance including contributors to relative underperformance and performance outlook</li> <li>Market themes</li> <li>Sustainability and ESG goals</li> </ul>	The ISC were satisfied with Barings' presentation. The ISC noted the manager's confidence in hitting their performance target for 2023.

### Summary of manager engagement activity

The following table summarises the key engagement activity for the 12-month period ending 31 March 2023 unless stated otherwise. Where fund specific data is not available, data on a firmwide level has been used.

**Table 4: Summary of management activity**

Manager: Fund	Number of engagements	Topic engaged on
Barings: Global Higher Yield Credit Strategies	No voting rights.  456 engagements with issuers within its fixed income investments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2023.	Climate Change, Natural Resources, Pollution, Social Equality and Diversity, Human and Labour Rights, Public Health, Governance and Leadership, Financial Reporting and Performance, Risk Management, and Capital Allocation.
Legal & General: RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway and RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Fund Multi Factor Climate Transition Fund	RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Fund: In addition to the voting activity, there were 376 engagements within the fund for the period 1 April 2022 to 15 December 2022 (date of disinvestment).  RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Fund: In addition to the voting activity, there were 91 engagements within the fund for the period 15 December 2022 (date of investment) to 31 March 2023.	Climate change; remuneration; climate impact pledge; board composition; public health; labour standards; diversity; nominations and succession.
Insight: Global ABS	No voting rights for the Fund.  50 engagements with 40 issuers; 1178 at a firmwide level, for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (disinvested on 17 October 2022).	At a firmwide level, Insight commonly engaged with entities on: climate change, natural resource use and impact, pollution, social equality, remuneration, financial reporting and risk management (including cyber and operational risk).
TwentyFour: Monument Bond	No voting rights.  134 engagements with the originators and servicers of the loan pools within the Monument Bond Fund.	Environmental Topics, Social Issues, Governance and ABS Sponsors/CLO Managers Meetings.
M&G: Alpha Opportunities and Credit Opportunities IV	No voting rights for the funds.  For the Alpha Opportunities Fund: 11 engagements across 10 issuers	Carbon Emission Targets, Emission Disclosure, Clean Energy Targets, Reporting of Green Revenues, Remuneration, Diversity and Inclusion, Exposure

Manager: Fund	Number of engagements	Topic engaged on
	<p>within the fund for period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.</p> <p>For the Credit Opportunities Fund IV: 2 engagements across 2 issuers within the fund for period 1 April 2022 to 15 November 2022 (date of disinvestment).</p>	to Nuclear Weapons, Carbon emissions disclosure

Source: Investment managers

### Review of policies

The Trustee has committed to reviewing the managers' RI policies on an annual basis. This last review was undertaken by the Trustee on 8 August 2022. The review considered managers broader approach to responsible investment issues in addition to considering any change in approach by the manager over the year. The Trustee also considered changes to their managers voting policies.

The Trustee and its advisors remain satisfied that the responsible investment policies of the managers and, where appropriate, the voting policies remain suitable for the Scheme. The next review of RI policies is scheduled to take place in May 2023.

## Appendix - LGIM significant votes for the year to 31 March 2023

**Table 5: Legal & General RAFI Fundamental Global Reduced Carbon Pathway Equity Index Fund significant votes**

Date	Company	% of Fund	Subject (theme and summary)	Manager's vote and rationale	Why considered significant	Lessons Learnt
12/05/2022	BP Plc	0.6	Resolution 3 - Approve Net Zero - From Ambition to Action Report	LGIM voted for the resolution. LGIM believe that BP Plc have taken significant steps towards a net zero pathway. They continue to engage with company on its net zero strategy.	LGIM considers this vote significant as it is an escalation of their climate-related engagement activity and their public call for high quality and credible transition plans to be subject to a shareholder vote.	LGIM will continue to engage with their investee companies and publicly advocate their position on these issues.
19/05/2022	AT&T Inc.	0.5	Resolution 5 - Require Independent Board Chair	LGIM voted in favour of the shareholder resolution (management recommendation: against). LGIM expect that companies establish the role of an independent Board Chair.	LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is in application of an escalation of their vote policy on the topic of the combination of the board chair and CEO (escalation of engagement by vote). A vote in favour was applied as it is expected that companies establish the role of independent Board Chair.	
24/05/2022	Royal Dutch Shell Plc	1.4	Resolution 20 – Approve the Shell Energy Transition Progress Update	LGIM voted against the resolution. LGIM were concerned with the disclosed plans for oil and gas production and thought the company would benefit from further disclosure of targets associated with the upstream and downstream businesses.	LGIM considers this vote significant as it is an escalation of their climate-related engagement activity and their public call for high quality and credible transition plans to be subject to a shareholder vote.	

Date	Company	% of Fund	Subject (theme and summary)	Manager's vote and rationale	Why considered significant	Lessons Learnt
25/05/2022	Chevron Corporation	0.9	Resolution 1I - Elect Director Michael K. Wirth	LGIM voted against the resolution. LGIM has a longstanding policy advocating for the separation of the roles of CEO and board chair.	LGIM considers this vote to be significant as it is in application of an escalation of their vote policy on the topic of the combination of the board chair and CEO (escalation of engagement by vote).	
01/06/2022	Alphabet Inc.	0.9	Resolution 7 - Report on Physical Risks of Climate Change	LGIM voted for the resolution. LGIM expects companies to be taking sufficient action on the key issue of climate change.	LGIM considers this vote significant as it is an escalation of their climate-related engagement activity and their public call for high quality and credible transition plans to be subject to a shareholder vote.	

Source: Legal & General Investment Management. \*The significant votes cover the period 1 April 2022 to 15 December 2022.

**Table 6: Legal & General RAFI Multi Factor Climate Transition Equity Index Fund significant votes**

Date	Company	% of Fund	Subject (theme and summary)	Manager's vote and rationale	Why considered significant	Lessons Learnt
19/01/2023	Costco Wholesale Corporation	0.5	Resolution 1h - Elect Director Jeffrey S. Raikes	LGIM voted against the resolution as the company has an all-male executive committee.	LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf. LGIM expects companies to have a diverse board, with at least one-third of board members being women.	LGIM will continue to engage with their investee companies and publicly advocate their



South East Water Pension Scheme

Date	Company	% of Fund	Subject (theme and summary)	Manager's vote and rationale	Why considered significant	Lessons Learnt
09/02/2023	Tyson Foods, Inc.	0.0	Resolution 6 - Comply with World Health Organization Guidelines on Antimicrobial Use Throughout Supply Chains	LGIM voted for the resolution. LGIM believe it is important for companies to limit the use of antibiotics within the supply chain.	LGIM view antimicrobial resistance as one of their strategic areas of focus as a firm.	position on these issues.
07/03/2023	Novartis AG	0.8	Resolution 8.1 - Reelect Joerg Reinhardt as Director and Board Chair	LGIM voted against the resolution as they expect companies to have a diverse board, with at least one-third of board members being women.	LGIM views gender diversity as a financially material issue for our clients, with implications for the assets we manage on their behalf.	

Source: Legal & General Investment Management. \*The significant votes cover the period 15 December 2022 to 31 March 2023.